

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 241718Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6515

S E C R E T MADRID 4823

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON FONMIN.

1. DURING MY CALL ON FONMIN LOPEZ RODO ON AUGUST 22, HIS PHONE RANG, AND WHEN I MADE A MOTION TO LEAVE, HE MOTIONED ME TO STAY. AS A RESULT I LISTENED IN ON AN INTERESTING CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH PRINCE JUAN CARLOS. THE FOLLOWING WERE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED. I BELIEVE PRINCE'S CALL WAS IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST BY LOPEZ RODO.

A. LOPEZ RODO ASKED PRINCE TO ATTEND AN UNSPECIFIED FUNERAL, WHICH WOULD ALSO BE ATTENDED BY CROWN PRINCE OF LUXEMBOURG AND ONE OTHER CROWN PRINCE. (I SUSPECT THIS MAY REFER TO PREPARATIONS FOR POSSIBLE DEATH OF KING OF SWEDEN).

B. LOPEZ RODO HAS HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR AND ALL ARRANGEMENTS ARE CLEARED FOR PRINCE'S VISIT TO FRANCE.

C. LOPEZ RODO HAD A VISIT FROM INDIAN AMBASSADOR EARLIER THAT MORNING AND HAD APPARENTLY RECEIVED AGREEMENT FOR PRINCE'S VISIT TO INDIA IN JANUARY. APPARENTLY PRINCE HAD SOME PROBLEM WITH JANUARY, SO LOPEZ RODO SUGGESTED MARCH OR APRIL AS POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES.

D. SPAIN HAS REQUESTED AGREEMENT FROM U.K. FOR

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NOMINATION OF MANUEL FRAGA AS AMBASSADOR TO LONDON. EVIDENTLY

PRINCE QUESTIONED MINISTER'S REASON FOR THE SHIFT OF PINIES TO UN. MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT PINIES WAS SPECIALLY QUALIFIED FOR THE JOB, IN VIEW OF HIS PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE. IT TAKES DIFFERENT EXPERTISE FOR MULTILATERAL AND TRILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, HE EXPLAINED, AND NOT MANY CAN DO WELL IN THE FIRST THE SHIFT WAS THE MINISTER'S IDEA AND HE HAD RECEIVED FRANCO'S APPROVAL LAST WEEK. IN APPARENT REPLY TO PRINCE'S QUESTION, HE EXPLAINED THAT U.N. POSITION DID NOT REQUIRE AGREEMENT AND THEREFORE COULD BE MADE PUBLIC IMMEDIATELY, WHEREAS ANNOUNCEMENT COULD NOT BE MADE FOR LONDON JOB BEFORE RECEIVING UK AGREEMENT. PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE NAME WOULD OFFEND BRITISH AND MIGHT RESULT IN THEIR NOT GIVING AGREEMENT, AS HAD HAPPENED IN THE CASE OF CASTIELLA. FRAGA WAS A MAN OF PRESTIGE AND EXPERIENCED AND WAS BEST PERSON FOR THE JOB.

E. FONMIN INFORMED PRINCE THAT FRANCO HAD RECEIVED A VERY NICE LETTER FROM THE POPE, IN REPLY TO FRANCO'S LETTER. HE PROMISED TO SEND PRINCE A COPY.

F. FONMIN HAD HAD A LONG, THREE HOUR TALK WITH MOROCCAN FONMIN BENHIMA WHOM HE CHARACTERIZED AS A DIFFICULT PERSON. HE THOUGHT CONVERSATION WAS USEFUL, ALTHOUGH NOT PRODUCTIVE.

2. THE INCIDENT CONFIRMS THAT THE PRINCE IS KEPT INFORMED BY THE MINISTERS ON MANY SUBJECTS, NOT LIMITED TO MAJOR POLICY MATTERS, AND THAT THE PRINCE HAS KEEN INTEREST IN A VARIETY OF GOVERNMENT MATTERS. LOPEZ RODO SEVERAL TIMES TOLD THE PRINCE "I WANTED YOU TO BE AWARE OF THIS", "OR I WANTED TO INFORM YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE". HIS TONE WAS RESPECTFUL BUT AT THE SAME TIME INDICATED A CERTAIN DEGREE OF FAMILIARITY AND CERTAINLY DID NOT REFLECT A CONDESCENSION, NOR ANNOYANCE AT HAVING TO FILL THE PRINCE IN ON DETAILS OF HIS MINISTRY'S AFFAIRS. IT IS APPARENT THAT THIS TALK FOLLOWS A ROUTINE POSSIBLY ESTABLISHED DURING LOPEZ RODO'S PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENT.
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